BOR To Study Watershed Areas Along The Provo River

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The first in a series of agreements to monitor and manage water quality in the Provo River Drainage above Deer Creek Dam was recently signed according to Bureau of Reclamation's P. Kirt Carpenter, Manager of the Utah Projects Office.

"Under the terms of this agreement," he said, "the Utah State Department of Health, Summit and Wasatch counties, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake City, Mountainland Association of Governments, and the Bureau of Reclamantion will monitor water quality in Deer Creek Reservoir and the Provo River." These agencies will conduct studies for the purpose of implementing a watershed management plan to protect water quality in Deer Creek Reservoir and the proposed Jordanelle Reservoir near Heber City, part of the Central Utah Project's Bonneville Unit.

"The Bureau of Reclamation is submitting the management plan and the first annual implementation agreement to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in compliance with EPA's request for the development and implementation of a water quality management plan for the proposed Jordanelle Reservoir prior to the start of construction," Carpenter said. This management plan has been **incorporated into existing State and local water quality management plans.**

This agreement provides for quality analysis of samples taken periodically at approximately 70 stations located at points on Deer Creek Reservoir and on the Provo River and its tributaries, including ground-water sources such as springs and wells. Geographically, the station locations will range from just below Deer Creek Dam to the headwaters of the Provo River and its tributaries high in the Uinta Mountains.

"The data collected by the agencies involved will be compiled into a computer-based data-management system for all water quality data for the Deer Creek watershed," reported Carpenter. "It will be analyzed and interpreted to assist in accomplishing water quality goals. The implementation agreement also provides for developing zoning ordinances and monitoring landuse practices to protect or improve water quality.

"Execution of the management plan, in conjunction with operation of the proposed Jordanelle Reservoir, is expected to improve water quality in the Provo River and Deer Creek Reservoir over present conditions," he said, "and reduce the costs of treating water diverted for municipal and industrial use. It will also improve the esthetics of Deer Creek Reservoir by elimination of undesirable high levels of algae from the water."

Swollen Trial Lake May Threaten Provo

By LISA MOTE
Herald Staff Writer
4-25-86

The water level in Trial Lake is the highest on record, threatening to flood the Provo River this spring.

Officials of the Provo River Water Users' Association, however, have lowered the level of Deer Creek Reservoir and hope to prevent major flooding.

Jack Gardner, superintendent of the association, said the water level at Trial Lake, which is at the head of the Provo River, was 48.3 inches as of April 22.

"The water is the highest it's ever been as far as any record I know of," he said. In 1982 the level was 41.3 inches and in 1983 it was 36 inches.

Because the level is at 48.3 inches this year, the association has lowered the level of Deer Creek Reservoir.

Gardner said his studies show about 60,000 acre-feet of water need to be released from the reservoir before peak runoff. Deer Creek has been drawn down to about [illegible] acre-feet.

The extra volume will provide space for storage of the runoff water this spring, he said.

Merrill Bingham, Provo's Water and Wastewater director, said the only major flooding danger in Provo this year comes from the river. Without the water users' help, "we would be looking at flooding along the river without a doubt. With that storage, we may get through without any serious problems."

With the extra space, officials at the reservoir can control the amount of water flowing down the river and prevent gravel fills that slow the river flow, Gardner said.

Even with the precautions, however, it is possible the runoff water will come faster than Deer Creek can take care of it, Gardner said. "I don't know what will happen. I've never seen this much water on Trial Lake."

In 1983, it was hard to control the runoff water when it all came out of Trial Lake in 40 days. With the higher water level this year, if all the water comes down in 40 days, the peak flows would be hard to control.

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